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My love of history and teaching others is what drives me. Education is the single most valuable commodity in the world. And in this wonderful country, anyone can have it, anyone can use it, and anyone can benefit from it. In my life, I have been fortunate enough to have wonderful teachers who not only taught me about math, reading, and science, but also about life and history and how we live it to the best of our ability.

My first grade teacher, Mrs. Beasley, would always find fun ways to teach us things ranging from grammar to sums. Once, during our week-long standardized testing, she turned all our practice time into one big game. Every day when we got back from class, she would put on Pink Panther music and dress up in a knee-length trench coat, complete with a real detective hat. She made learning not only fun, but something achievable, something we could all be successful at with a bit of grit and determination.

My high school Spanish teacher was tough and unrelenting. She only spoke Spanish in class and the final exam was the most difficult of all my classes... I loved it! She loved us enough not to let us just 'get by'. What drives her, drives me - the love of learning and passing it on to others.

As a child I taught my stuffed animals, as a student I taught my friends, and just last year I started tutoring as a part-time job. It was hard, but when I saw that little boy finally get it, when the pieces all fell into place and the numbers made sense, it was completely worth it. I was so grateful to be the teacher that helped this little boy to flourish.

For me, history is the subject that really drives me. The process by which our distinct American culture and history resulted in the exceptional form of government that resulted, hundreds of years after our shores were first colonized, is almost like music to me - you've heard every note before, but never together - and that's what the study of American history means to me. Bringing all of those notes together, to hear the whole song in all its beauty and form, is what historians, and by extension, history teachers, do. It was simply providence that led me to combine my love of teaching and my love of human history into what will be my life's passion and pursuit.

I will be attending the University of Wyoming in the fall to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education, with an emphasis in Social Studies. After graduating, I intend to continue my education at the University of Wyoming and earn a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. My goal is to become a College Board AP-certified High School American History teacher at a public or charter school in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and give back to my students everything my teachers gave to me.